

Kaye M. Breon  
Principal

# Tiger Tales

Brian Vanisko  
Assistant Principal

**West Friendship E.S.**  
12500 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
P: (410) 313-5512



**Web Site:** <http://wfes.hcpss.org/>  
School Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**November 15, 2019**

## School News

### American Education Week at West Friendship Elementary School

The National Education Association's 98<sup>th</sup> annual American Education Week is November 18-22, 2019. This year's theme is... "Reach. Educate. Inspire." It is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education.

West Friendship Elementary invites parents to visit classes during the week. Please do not bring younger siblings to class. Grade levels have planned special activities involving parents as shown below:

Monday, Nov. 18	Tuesday, Nov. 19	Wednesday, Nov. 20	Thursday Nov. 21	Friday, Nov. 22
<b>Kindergarten</b> 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. <b>Math</b>	<b>Second Grad</b> 1:30 -2:45 p.m. <b>Math</b>	<b>Third Grade</b> 10:25 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Fourth Grade</b> 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. <b>Math</b>	<b>Fifth Grade</b> 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. <b>Math</b>
<b>First Grade</b> 1:45 – 2:30 p.m. <b>Science</b>				

Due to space and school security, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- Only adults are invited to visit during the school day.
- Ensure that you sign in and out at the table in front of the office. Take a visitor sticker and wear in a visible location at all times.
- If you are joining for lunch, there may not be space for everyone to sit. Please allow students to be seated first.

Parking Reminders:

- No cars can be parked in the bus area from 8:30-9:20 a.m.
- All cars must leave the bus area by 3:15 p.m.
- Do not park in reserved spots or spots with cones.
- Additional parking on the empty lot behind the old West Friendship Fire Dept.
- Additional parking on Wellworth Way and Clover Leaf Drive. Park on **only one side** of the street to ensure emergency vehicles can access the road, if necessary.
- DO NOT leave (visible) valuables in your vehicle.

### Volunteers Needed for the Book Fair!

The West Friendship Elementary Book Fair is an event that students look forward to, year after year. Many middle school students return to WFES to support the Book Fair. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please visit <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EKcQsHzt6kJcQEfUN6mFZUC7PPZl0Phf5Cjhr-cEJk/edit#gid=0> to select a time you are available to help our school. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

## Time for the Book Fair

Reading for pleasure inside and outside of school has real and long-lasting benefits. It unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Please plan on visiting our Book Fair to help our children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading. What an awesome way to start your holiday shopping!

Book Fair dates: November 18 – 26, 2019

Book Fair location: Conference Room (Main Office)

Shopping hours: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Extended hours: Monday, November 25 & Tuesday, November 26, 8:45am to 7:00pm

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!

Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

As partners in your child's education, we invite you to sign up for fall Parent Teacher Conferences. Important conference information was sent home with all students today. Please check your child's take home folder for this information.

The HCPSS window for conferences is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. Parents can log into [HCPSS Connect](#) beginning Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 a.m. through Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 p.m. Parents will be able to view and select from the time slots provided.

Fall conferences will be with your child's Language Arts teacher. If your child is in the 4th grade GT math program with Mr. Haskins, you will also be able to schedule a time.

Math conferences, to include 5<sup>th</sup> grade GT students and Mrs. Greene's 4<sup>th</sup> grade G/T students will be held in the February. If there is a math concern, please contact your child's math teacher on November 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, by email or phone, to schedule a time.

Should you need to conference with a related arts teacher, please contact our Teachers' Secretary, Mrs. Colleen Green at 410-313-5512.

## Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

This year, the Howard County Public School System will be administering the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) to all students in grades 3 and 5. The CogAT is a group-administered abilities test that measures students' reasoning abilities, which they develop through in-school and out-of-school experiences. It is not designed to test a student's academic achievement, but their potential.

The test is made of three batteries – Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal. Each battery takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The CogAT helps educators understand a student's cognitive strengths and weaknesses, and assists with adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of each student.

All students in Grades 3 and 5 will participate in the testing. The CogAT will be administered on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. No special preparation is required. Just send your child to school ready to learn as you do daily.

The Gifted and Talented Education Program will use the data from the CogAT as one criterion for placement into fourth grade Gifted/Talented mathematics classes and middle school Gifted/Talented content classes. Students' individual scores will be reported to parents in late February/early March.

Please contact Brian Vanisko, Assistant Principal, if you have any questions about your child's involvement with the CogAT assessment. [Brian\\_Vanisko@hcpss.org](mailto:Brian_Vanisko@hcpss.org)

[Click here to view CogAT FAQ](#)

## Young Authors' Contest

Students in Grades 1-5 are encouraged to participate in the Young Authors' Contest, which is sponsored by the State of Maryland Literacy Association. Poems or short stories may be entered into the contest. The deadline for entries is December 4, 2019. Attached you will find complete contest guidelines and an entry cover sheet.

Contest Guidelines

Entry Cover Sheet

## HCPSS New Attendance Procedures

Research is clear that showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school or even facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- By the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that can indicate if a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.
- In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.

Student attendance is a major point of focus for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Starting in school year 2018-2019, MSDE lowered the chronic absenteeism rate from 20% to 10% which means that at 10% a student should be receiving support and interventions to improve their absenteeism.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key for student success. Per Policy 9010, HCPSS defines exemplary attendance as a final attendance rate of 96% or more of the student year.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach for attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student has missed 5% of their monthly attendance days (as few as 1-2 days a month), parents will receive a Care and Concern Phone Call and letter from their school. This step will allow staff members to coordinate with families to determine how the student can be supported for better attendance.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and supports at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents, staff and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

## Visitation/Lunch

Parents are invited to visit our school; however, the instruction of the students is the primary purpose of the school and no other activity should interfere with this basic purpose. Please understand **that younger siblings are not permitted during visits/lunch/recess/volunteer time**. For the protection of the children and staff, **all visitors must report to the school office before going to any other area of the building, including outside recess**. Visitors must sign-in with a driver's license or state issued identification card in order to obtain a badge

from the office. **Visitors who are not listed on a student's emergency procedure form, must have written permission from the student's parent in order to visit/volunteer in our school.** Anyone wishing to tour the school or visit a class must call and prearrange a visit. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Save the Date!

November 18 – 22	American Education Week
November 18 – 22	WFES Book Fair - 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Wednesday, November 20	PTA Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
Friday, November 22	Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
Mon. & Tues., Nov. 25 & 26	Schools Close 3-Hrs. Early – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mon. & Tues., Nov. 25 & 26	WFES Book Fair – 8:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
November 27-29	Schools Closed – Happy Thanksgiving
Monday, December 2	Gr. 3 Field Trip – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tues., & Wed., Dec. 3 & 4	CogAT Administered to Grades 3 and 5
Wednesday, December 4	Mini Choral Concert for WFES Students ONLY – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 4	Chorus Concert featuring 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gr. Chorus & 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Percussion – 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, December 4	Chorus Concert featuring 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Chorus & 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Percussion – 7:15 p.m.
Friday, December 6	Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
Friday, December 6	Kindergarten Tiger Celebration – 2:30 p.m.
Friday, December 13	WFES School Spirit “Pajama” Day
Friday, December 13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Interim Progress Reports Issued
Wednesday, December 18	PTA Meeting in the Media Center – 6:30 p.m.
Friday, December 20	Unheard Perspectives Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
Friday, December 20	PTA Sponsored Assembly “Justin Berk” in the Cafeteria Grades K, 1 & 2 – 9:30 a.m. / Grades 3, 4 & 5 – 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 20	Student Holiday Assembly Grades 1, 3 & 5 – 1:35 p.m. / Grades K, 2 & 4 – 2:35 p.m.
Friday, December 20	Grade 5 Tiger Celebration – 3:15 p.m.
December 23 – January 1	Schools Closed – Winter Break
Thursday, January 2	Schools Reopen

## From the PTA

### West Friendship Elementary School PTA News

The overall purpose of PTA is to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Be informed about the goings on with WFES PTA:

PTA Website: [www.wfespta.com](http://www.wfespta.com)

PTA Facebook page: **West Friendship Elementary School PTA**

### School Directory Access

The school directory is now available. Please log onto the directory with the following directions. The directory can be sorted by grade or other various search options.

Go to [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)

Click on [HCPSS Connect](#)

Click on HCPSS Connect Log In

Select **Family File/School Directory** from the menu on the left of the screen in the navigation bar.

## PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

## WFES Day at Tony's Pizzeria

Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> will be an ALL DAY fundraiser at Tony's Pizzeria in West Friendship. Both, carryout and delivery orders qualify us to receive credit. However, you must present the flyer to the restaurant or delivery person in order for the PTA to get credit. Please print out this flyer to have available. Please share with family and friends!!!

**West Friendship Elementary PTA Fundraiser  
Monday, November 18 ALL DAY**

12800 Frederick Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794

[mytonypizzeria.com](http://mytonypizzeria.com)

443-266-7349



PLEASE present this  
flier to the store or  
delivery person so  
that WFES PTA gets  
credit!

Don't make dinner Monday night! OR treat yourself to a pizza lunch!  
Order from Tony's Pizzeria ANYTIME on Monday, November 18

## Community News

Visit the Community News and Programs web-page for all announcements of events and programs sponsored by non-profit organizations. <https://www.hcpss.org/community-news-and-programs/>

### Marriotts Ridge High School Fall Plan

*Peter and the Starcatcher*, a prequel to Peter Pan

**November 14, 15, 16 at 7pm; November 17 at 3pm**

Ticket sales are now live! Please use the following link to purchase: <https://tinyurl.com/MRHS-PETER>

**Description:** In an evocative and fast-paced adventure on the high seas and on a faraway island, an orphan boy named Peter and his mysterious new friend, Molly, overcome bands of pirates and thieves in their quest to keep a fantastical secret safe and save the world from evil. (Rated PG)



**Address**

12500 Frederick Road  
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**Phone**

410-313-5512



**Website**

[wfes.hcpss.org](http://wfes.hcpss.org)



**Twitter**

[@hcpss.wfes](https://twitter.com/hcpss.wfes)